



The da Vinci robot being operated by one of VAPHS' surgeons.

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Details Rare, Innovative Cardiac Procedures Performed at University Drive Division

Under the direction of Marco A. Zenati M.D., the VAPHS Cardiac Surgery Program is on the forefront of innovative procedures, providing surgical therapies for veterans including cutting-edge minimally invasive surgical options such as DaVinci robotic procedures, minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass, HYBRID revascularization (MIDCAB and stent) and off pump coronary artery bypass (OPCAB).

The VAPHS Cardiac Surgery Program performed the first awake coronary bypass surgery in 2000, and VAPHS is one of the top enrollers in the U.S.'s largest prospective randomized trial comparing outcomes of conventional Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) and OPCAB sponsored by the VA Cooperative Studies Program. More than 20 robotic-assisted CABGs have been performed at VAPHS.

For veterans with mitral regurgitation, VAPHS offers multiple options including endoscopic robotic mitral valve repair using the DaVinci robotic system. In November 2005, the first robotic assisted mitral valve repair was performed at VAPHS, one of only a dozen centers in the U.S. offering off-pump mitral valve repair using the Coapsys system, as part of a multicenter prospective randomized trial.